

# **Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services**

## ***EMT-Basic Protocol Anaphylactic Shock Epinephrine Administration***

### **Procedure: Epinephrine Autoinjector Use**

This procedural policy is distributed to refresh the EMT-B with the correct use of an epinephrine autoinjector. It assumes the EMT-B has performed a thorough patient assessment, has determined that the patient appears to be experiencing an allergic reaction, and has received a direct order from Medical Control or notes patient assessment findings that allow for epinephrine administration under the authority of BLS-level protocols/standing orders.

Obtain the autoinjector

Remove the injector from its protective covering and verify:

- A current expiration date

- Lack of cloudiness/discoloration

- The correct dosage (Adult 0.3 mg, Pediatric 0.15 mg)

  - (The Pediatric patient is designated as one who is less than 8 years of age and/or less than 55 pounds.)

Select the appropriate injection site- lateral portion of the thigh midway between the waist and knee

Remove the safety cap from the injector

Place the tip firmly against the site

Push hard until you hear or feel injector activate

Hold injector in place for ten (10) seconds

Remove the injector and dispose of in a sharps container

# Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services

## *EMT-Basic Protocol Anaphylactic Shock Epinephrine Administration*

### **Procedure: Subcutaneous Administration of Epinephrine by the EMT-B**

This procedural policy is distributed to detail the procedure for the EMT-B to prepare and deliver a subcutaneous administration of epinephrine (using department-supplied needles, syringes and other equipment) to the patient suffering an allergic reaction. It assumes the EMT-B has performed a thorough patient assessment, has determined that the patient appears to be experiencing an allergic reaction, and has received a direct order from Medical Control or notes patient assessment findings that allow for epinephrine administration under the authority of BLS-level protocols/standing orders.

Gather necessary equipment

- Use only a TB Syringe with pre-attached needle
- Filter needle (if available)
- 1:1,000 epinephrine in 1 mL ampule
- Alcohol prep pad
- 2x2 Gauze Pad

Obtain the epinephrine ampule and verify:

- Correct medication (1:1,000 epinephrine- 1 mg in 1 mL ampule)
- A current expiration date
- Lack of cloudiness/discoloration

Select and expose injection site

- Lateral aspect of the thigh
- Lateral aspect of middle third of upper arm
- \*\* For any site, at least 1 inch pinched fold of skin. Avoid burned, scarred or edematous tissue.\*\***

Place a filter needle on the syringe to be used

“Shake down” the ampule to be used and break the top off, using an alcohol prep or 2x2 gauze to protect your fingers. (Dispose of the glass in a sharps container.)

Withdraw the appropriate amount of medication (Adult 0.3 mg, which is 0.3 mL of 1:1,000 solution/ Pediatric 0.15 mg, which is 0.15 mL of 1:1,000 solution.) Avoid touching the ampule with the needle.

Remove the filter needle (placing it in the sharps container) and replace it with the previously attached needle or monoject needle as selected above

Invert the needle and expel any air present

Clean the injection site with an alcohol swab, starting at the proposed injection site and wiping outward in a spiral

Pinch up the skin and insert the needle into the tissue bevel up at a 45-degree angle

Inject the medication into the subQ tissue slowly

Remove the syringe. Place immediately into a sharps container. **Never attempt to re-cap the needle.**

Apply pressure to the site for a few moments and then apply an adhesive bandage